

**Statement of Chairman Henry J. Hyde  
Before a Full Committee Meeting to Mark Up  
H.R. 2601, Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2006-2007  
Wednesday, June 8, 2005**

Before us is the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2006 and 2007. This bill authorizes funding for the administration of foreign affairs, international organizations, international commissions, and related appropriations, and authorizes appropriations for refugee affairs for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. This measure also authorizes a variety of foreign assistance programs and speaks to many current international issues.

This legislation funds the all-important framework by which the United States carries out its foreign aid and foreign policy programs and authorizes U.S. contributions to the United Nations, NATO, the OSCE, and other vital international organizations. This bill also provides for a review of strategic export controls.

H.R. 2601 was reported by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations following many substantive hearings. I appreciate Chairman Smith's diligence in developing this measure.

H.R. 2601 authorizes \$9.33 billion for the State Department and \$652 million for international broadcasting activities, for a total of \$9.985 billion, an increase of 12.4% over FY05. The bill is essentially within the President's FY06 request for State Department and Foreign Aid accounts.

We will be considering an amendment in the nature of a substitute today to H.R. 2601, which will be offered by Representative Chris Smith. This substitute includes all of the provisions approved and reported by Mr. Smith's subcommittee, plus many provisions offered by Members of the Full Committee. I appreciate the cooperation shown by Members as we have developed not only this substitute, but also the en bloc amendment which we will be considering shortly.

Very briefly, since the scope of this bill is so wide, let me mention a few important areas that this bill addresses.

Security initiatives in H.R. 2601 include \$1.5 billion for security-related construction of U.S. embassies, \$690 million to increase security for diplomatic personnel, and \$930 million for border security programs. These requests include funding for 55 additional diplomatic security personnel positions and 55 new consular positions. Under the Capital Security Construction Program, eight new embassy compounds and four USAID annexes would be funded. Congress has led the effort to increase security of overseas buildings. Increased funding, coupled with wise asset management and cost-sharing by other agencies resident at these diplomatic facilities should ensure a strong building program.

Title VII provides for a comprehensive review of strategic export controls in light of the war on terrorism. The bill creates a new inter-agency Board chaired by the Department of State will help ensure that our export control policies and programs are properly integrated with our nonproliferation and counterterrorism policy. The Board will also examine ways to improve the overall efficiency of the United States export control system and the quality of service being provided in support of legitimate exports by the U.S. business community

The bill supports State Department personnel and the building security program, strengthens the border security programs through additional staffing and improved technology, and continues modernization of the Department's computer systems. The bill increases funding for minority recruitment within the requested funds and continues the annual report on minority recruiting efforts at the Department. It increases the ceiling on differential pay for hardship and danger at a time when we are opening new posts in dangerous locations. It supports human rights efforts of the Department through targeted funding for the Office of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; promotes programs to fight against anti-Semitism and protects religious freedom in OSCE countries; provides for permanent authorization for Radio Free Asia; and funds scholarships for outstanding individuals from the southern Sudan region to study in the United States.

The substitute before us includes significant measures on the Middle East and adopts a far-reaching change to the provision of assistance to Egypt. The substitute includes a provision that would temporarily stop the \$40 million-per-year cuts in our economic assistance program to Egypt and restructures that program along the lines of a “millennium challenge” compact that Egypt would design and be accountable for. The cuts in the program, which have affected the civilian side of the budget for years, would occur for three years on the military side instead. Given Egypt’s myriad problems, in which its defense structure hardly figures at all, this is an entirely appropriate policy direction for Congress to take at this time.

In the vital area of public diplomacy, H.R. 2601 meets the President’s request for international broadcasting, for Education and Cultural Exchanges, and other public diplomacy programs.

As far as the parliamentary process is concerned, Representative Chris Smith will offer the substitute, which will be the vehicle for our markup. All amendments to that vehicle will be considered.

After we have completed the amendment process, we will have a vote on the Smith amendment, as amended. We will then have a *pro forma* voice vote on the subcommittee version. We will then vote on the motion to report the bill favorably, as amended.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee’s support for measure before us. And now I turn to my friend, Tom Lantos, the Ranking Democratic Member, for any remarks he may wish to make. Mr. Lantos.